REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated August 12, 2005. No claims have been amended or canceled by this Response. Therefore, Claims 1-42 are now pending. As set out more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to and rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,260,120 to Blumenau et al. ("Blumenau"). In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 to be proper, each and every element as set forth in a claim must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. (MPEP §2131.) However, each and every element of the claims cannot be found in the Blumenau reference. In particular, the Blumenau reference does not disclose obtaining information by a storage controller that identifies a host as claimed. Instead, Blumenau discusses a system in which the host gathers information from storage subsystem ports. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims as anticipated by Blumenau are respectfully requested.

The present invention is generally directed to obtaining information by a storage controller in connection with the operation of a network storage system. More particularly, embodiments of the invention set forth in various of the claims are related to providing a system according to which a storage controller detects hosts and obtains information regarding those hosts as a result of bus scans performed by the hosts as those hosts boot. This allows an administrator to, for example, assign specific LUN permissions to specific host ports without requiring specialized host based software, and without requiring manual entry of host identifiers.

The Blumenau reference is generally directed to systems with multiple host processors. In particular, Blumenau discusses a storage controller having memory in which specifications associated with certain host processors, identified by host identifier, are stored. (Blumenau, Abstract). However, there is no discussion in Blumenau of a storage controller that obtains information such as a host identifier as a result of a bus scan performed by a host. Indeed, there appears to be no dissussion in Blumenau of how host identifier information is entered into controller memory. Accordingly, Blumenau would presumably use conventional processes for providing such information, which typically involve manual entry by a system adminstrator.

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Therefore, Blumenau does not disclose all of the elements set forth in the claims, and does not provide the advantages of reduced time and the avoidance of human errors in setting up a storage system that are enabled by the present invention.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for facilitating use of a system that includes at least one host and at least one controller. The method includes conducting a bus scan at a first host for obtaining, by a first storage controller, first information for identifying said first host. In addition, the bus scan conducted at the first host includes transmitting the first information from the host to the first storage controller. The method further includes using the information by the first storage controller and facilitating use of the system. As noted above, the Blumenau reference does not describe conducting a bus scan at a first host from which a first storage controller obtains first information for identifying the first host. Therefore, Blumenau does not describe a method as recited by Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-18. Accordingly, the rejections of Claims 1-18 as anticipated by Blumenau should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 19 is generally directed to a method for facilitating use of a system that includes at least one host and at least one storage controller. The method includes accessing by a first storage controller a network switch communicating with the first host for obtaining, by the first storage controller, first information for identifying the first host. Claim 19 further recites using the first information by the first storage controller and facilitating use of the system. Accordingly, Claim 19 is related to embodiments in which a storage controller retrieves information that has been captured by a switch in the communication path between a host and a network storage system. The Blumenau reference does not describe a method according to which a storage controller can obtain information for identifying a host from a network switch. Furthermore, the portions of Blumenau cited by the Office Action with respect to Claim 19 are related to a virtual switch provided as part of a port adapter. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Claim 19 and dependent Claims 20-25 are not anticipated by Blumenau, and the rejections of these claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 26 is generally directed to an apparatus for facilitating use of a system that includes at least one storage controller that is accessible by one or more hosts. The storage controller includes a network interface for receiving network transmissions from each of the one or more

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hosts. In addition, the controller determines first host identifying information from a first of the network transmissions when the first network transmission is the result of a bus scan on the first host. In addition, the storage controller sends the first host identifying data indicative of the first information to an administrative subsystem. As noted above, the Blumenau reference does not discuss determining first host identifying first information from a network transmission that is a result of a host bus scan. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Claim 26 and dependent Claims 27-37 are not anticipated by Blumenau, and the rejections of these claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 38 is generally directed to an apparatus for facilitating use of a system that includes at least one controller that is accessible by one or more hosts. The apparatus comprises a storage controller that includes a network interface for receiving network transmissions from each of the one or more hosts. In addition, the storage controller accesses a network switch via a transmission on a network for obtaining first information for identifying the first host that is provided to the network by the network interface. Furthermore, the storage controller communicates with an administration subsystem related to the first information. Because the Blumenau reference does not discuss the collection of information related to a host from a network switch, Claim 38 and dependent Claims 39-42 are not anticipated by Blumenau, and the rejections of these claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would expedite the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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